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October 22, 1986

Dear Mr. Butler:

I am replying to your letter of September 25 concerning Raoul Wallenberg.

The United States Government has been concerned over the fate of Raoul Wallenberg since the case first came to light at the end of World War II. We have taken every appropriate opportunity to ask Soviet authorities for a clarification on the Wallenberg case. When recent reports came to light which we hoped might indicate the possibility that Wallenberg might still be alive, we raised the matter with the Soviets on numerous occasions throughout 1979. They finally answered, formally and in writing, in February of this year, stating that Wallenberg had died in July of 1947. They also informed the Swedish Government of this finding and they indicated that they would have no further information on Wallenberg in the future.

You may be interested to know that our most recent efforts to confirm reports about Wallenberg through interviews with Soviet dissidents and emigres have again failed to produce any information to support the possibility that Wallenberg might still be alive.

There is no question, however, that the Wallenberg case remains a concern for all who value human rights. His acts that saved the lives of thousands of Hungarian Jews during World War II showed courageous dedication to the concept of human rights. We will continue to make known our concern for the fate of Raoul Wallenberg and those like him who have suffered for their defense of human rights.

Sincerely,

J. Errol Atwood
Assistant Secretary for
(Congressional) Relations

The Reverend
F. Caldwell Butler,
Pastor of First Baptist Church.

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